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ABSTRACT

A survey of all New Mexico public schools with students enrolled in grade nine or higher gathered data on the extent and nature of the school dropout problem during the 1986-87 school year. All 88 New Mexico school districts and 100% of the 146 schools surveyed provided information on grade, sex, ethnicity, and reason for dropping out for students who left school prematurely. During 1986-87, 6,495 ninth through twelfth grade students dropped out, resulting in a dropout rate of 8.0%, up from 7.4% the previous school year. Males dropped out of school proportionately more than females, an effect which has been true each year of this annual study. The highest dropout rates occurred among Native American students (12.0%) and Hispanic students (9.0%), the lowest among Asian students (4.1%). Native American students have consistently experienced the highest dropout rates. Anglo, Black, and Hispanic students experienced the highest dropout rates in grade 10, and Native American students in grade 9. The most frequent reason for dropping out was lack of motivation or interest (22.0% overall). Native American students had a disproportionately high rate of expulsion (17.3% versus 1.5-2.1% for other ethnic groups). The report contains seven figures and three tables, and provides dropout rates from 1978-79 through 1986-87. Appendices list enrollments and dropout rates for each school and district and include the survey instrument. (SV)

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NEW MEXICO DROPOUT STUDY

EVALUATION, TESTING, AND DATA MANAGEMENT UNIT
NEW MEXICO STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

SCHOOL YEAR 1986-87

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NEW MEXICO DROPOUT STUDY

1986-87 SCHOOL YEAR

Prepared by

Henry Borgrink

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The information in this document is an analysis/summary of data provided to the Evaluation, Testing, and Data Management Unit of the State Department of Education by other organizations. While the Evaluation, Testing, and Data Management Unit monitors incoming data for completeness, the extent to which conclusions and generalizations can be drawn is dependent on the accuracy of the information provided by the responsible organizations.

INTRODUCTION

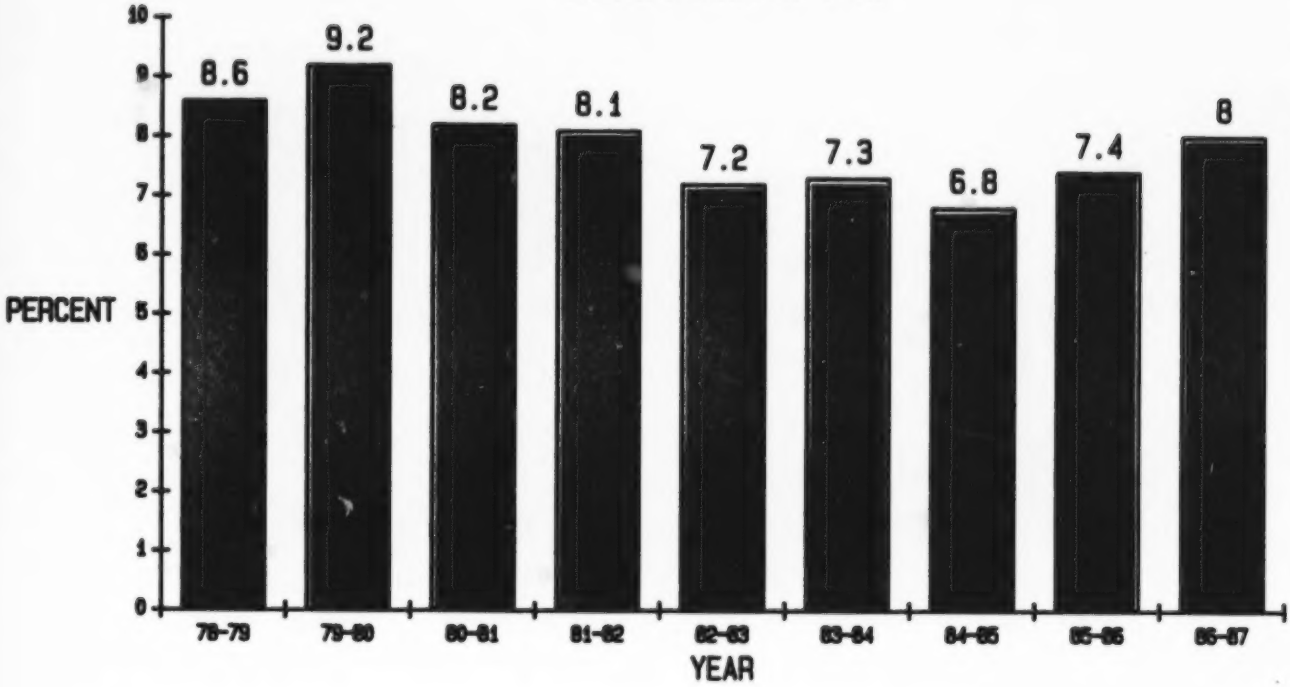
Each year the New Mexico State Department of Education's Evaluation, Testing, and Data Management Unit, conducts a statewide school dropout study. The purpose of the study is to gather and publish information bearing on the extent and nature of the school dropout problem in New Mexico. Data on the grade, sex, ethnicity, and reason for dropping out are collected for students who prematurely discontinued their formal education. It is hoped this information will assist state and local educational decision makers toward the design, implementation, and evaluation of corrective interventions.

This issue of the Dropout Study provides detailed information covering the 1986-87 school year. Survey instruments were sent to each public school in New Mexico that had students enrolled in grade nine or higher. At the end of the school year, local administrators compiled and reported the data for their respective schools.

The information presented in this issue also includes data from prior years' surveys which are intended to shed light on trends over time. This year's data include information from all 88 New Mexico public school districts and from 100% of the schools surveyed. A listing of the school districts and schools included in this report, along with their reported number of dropouts, 180-day membership and dropout rates, can be found in Appendix I. Statewide summary data by ethnicity, sex and grade can be found in Table 1. The reader is cautioned to the limitations inherent in self-report data.

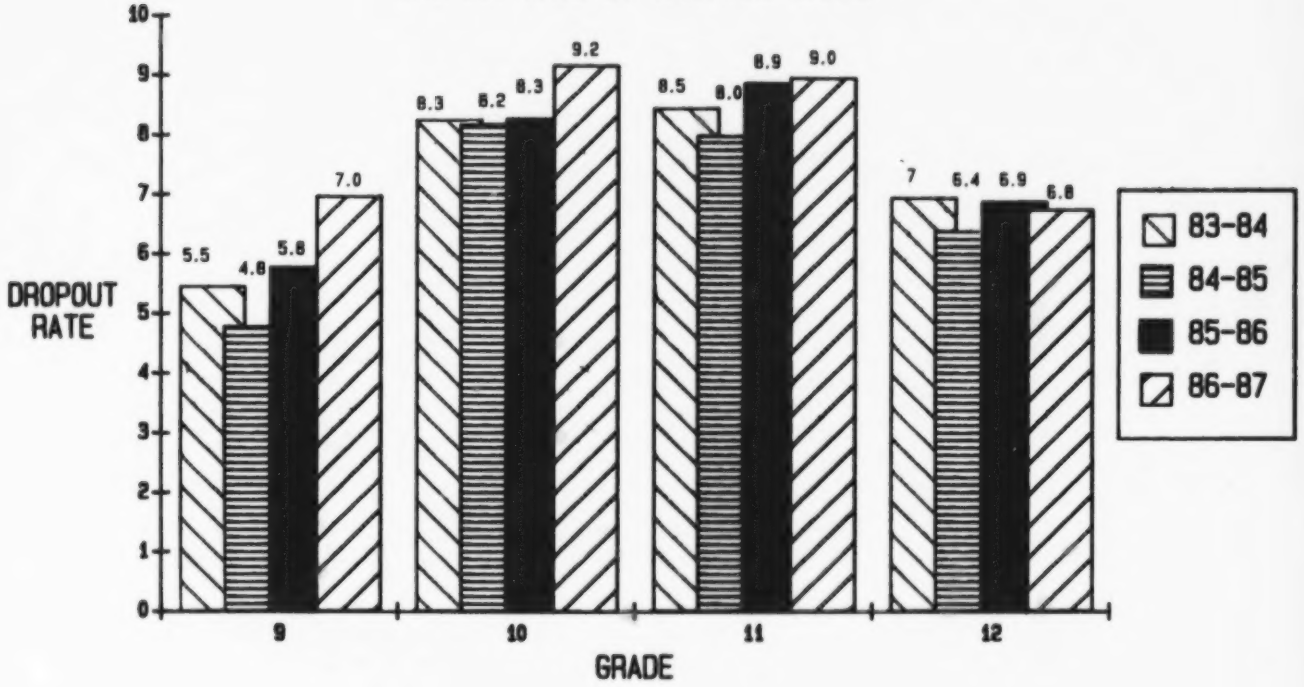
Most of the data presented in this publication consist of dropout rates. A dropout rate is a percent derived by taking the number of dropouts and dividing it by the sum of the 180th day membership plus the number of dropouts. A copy of the data collection instrument and the instructions which accompanied the instrument are attached as Appendix II.

Figure 1:
DROPOUT RATE BY YEAR



During the 1986-87 school year, 6,495 ninth through twelfth grade students dropped out of New Mexico public schools. With a total of 81,058 students (6,495 dropouts plus 74,563 students enrolled on the 180th day of school), this resulted in a dropout rate of 8%.

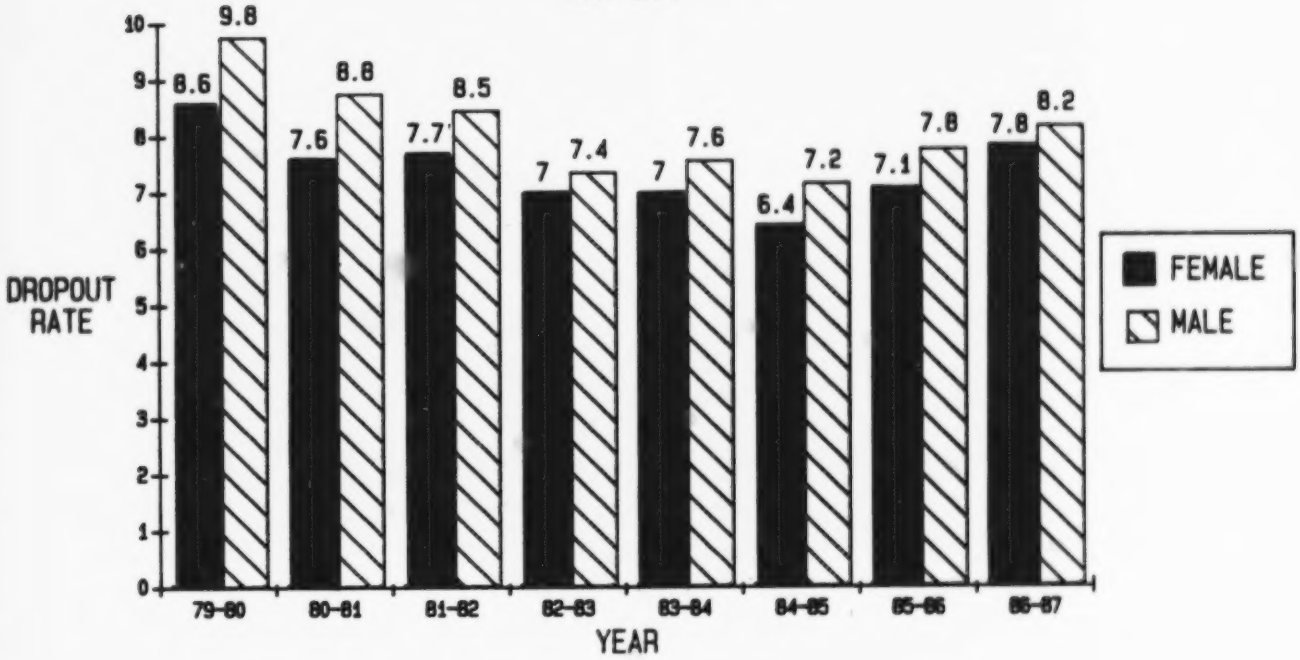
Figure 2:
DROPOUT RATE BY YEAR AND GRADE



Dropout data are collected each year for all New Mexico public school students in grades 9 through 12. In Figure 2, the dropout rates by year and grade are presented. The highest dropout rate occurred among tenth grade students and the lowest dropout rate occurred among twelfth grade students. During the 1986-87 school year, the number of students to drop out of school at each grade level was: 1,585, 1,981, 1,761, and 1,168 respectively.

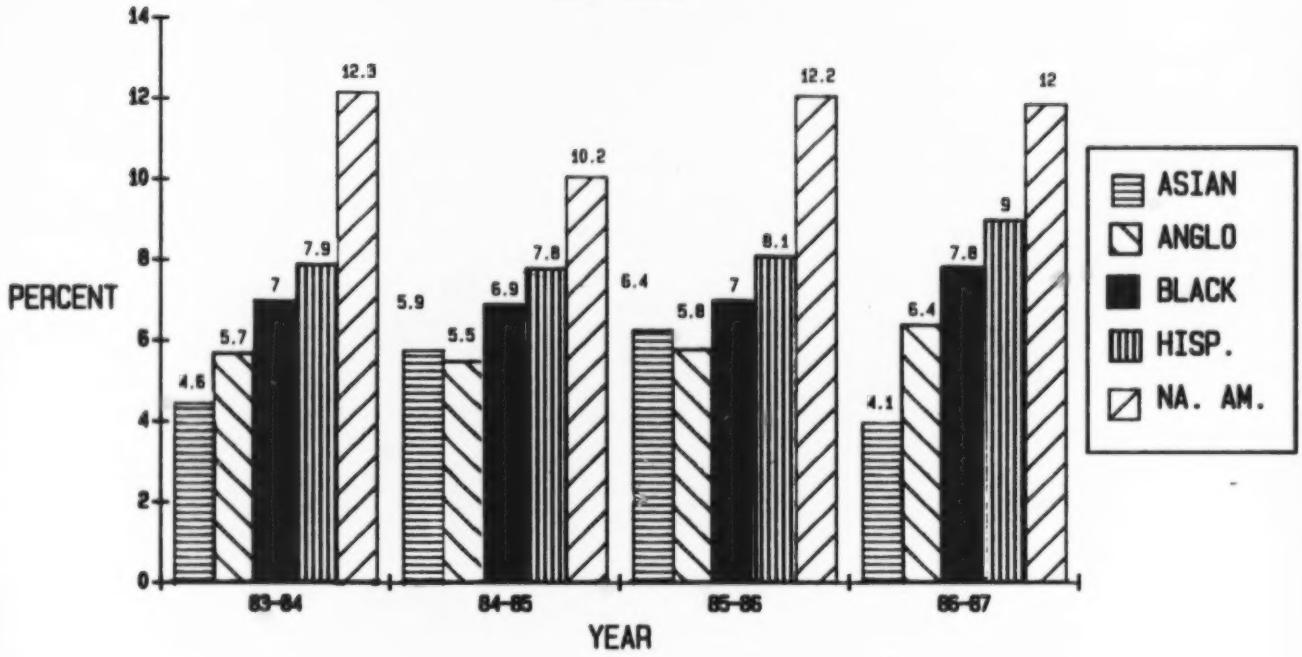
The reader should note that the data presented in Figure 2 represents dropout rates, by grade and year, for all students regardless of sex or ethnicity (see Table II, Page 8). The pattern does not hold, however, for members of various ethnic groups. A separate discussion of dropout rates among ethnic groups by grade can be found in Figure 5.

Figure 3:
DROPOUT RATE BY YEAR
AND SEX



The rates at which male and female students drop out of school are presented in Figure 3 for each school year. Males tend to drop out of school proportionally more than females, an effect which has been true for each school year.

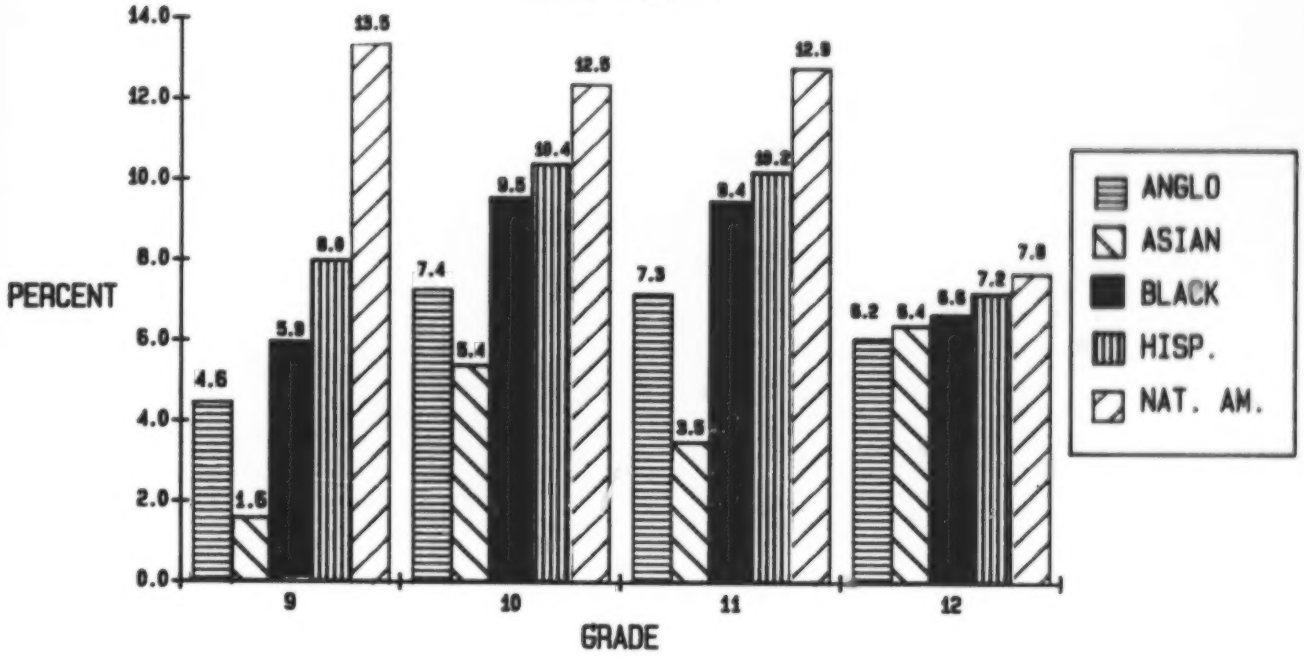
Figure 4:
DROPOUT RATES BY ETHNICITY
AND YEAR



Dropout rates by year and ethnicity are presented in Figure 4. During the 1986-87 school year, the highest dropout rate occurred among Native American students (12.0%); the second highest among Hispanic students (9.0%). The dropout rate for Asian students (4.1%) is the lowest dropout rate recorded for any ethnic group.

Native American students have consistently experienced the highest dropout rates; and over the last five years, Hispanic students have experienced the second highest dropout rate.

Figure 5:
DROPOUT RATE BY GRADE
AND ETHNICITY



When dropout rates by grade and ethnicity are reviewed, differences across ethnic groups can be observed. Dropout rates, by grade and ethnicity for the 1986-87 school year, are presented in Figure 5. Anglo, Black, and Hispanic students experienced the highest dropout rates at grade 10.

Figure 6:
DROPOUT RATE BY REASON

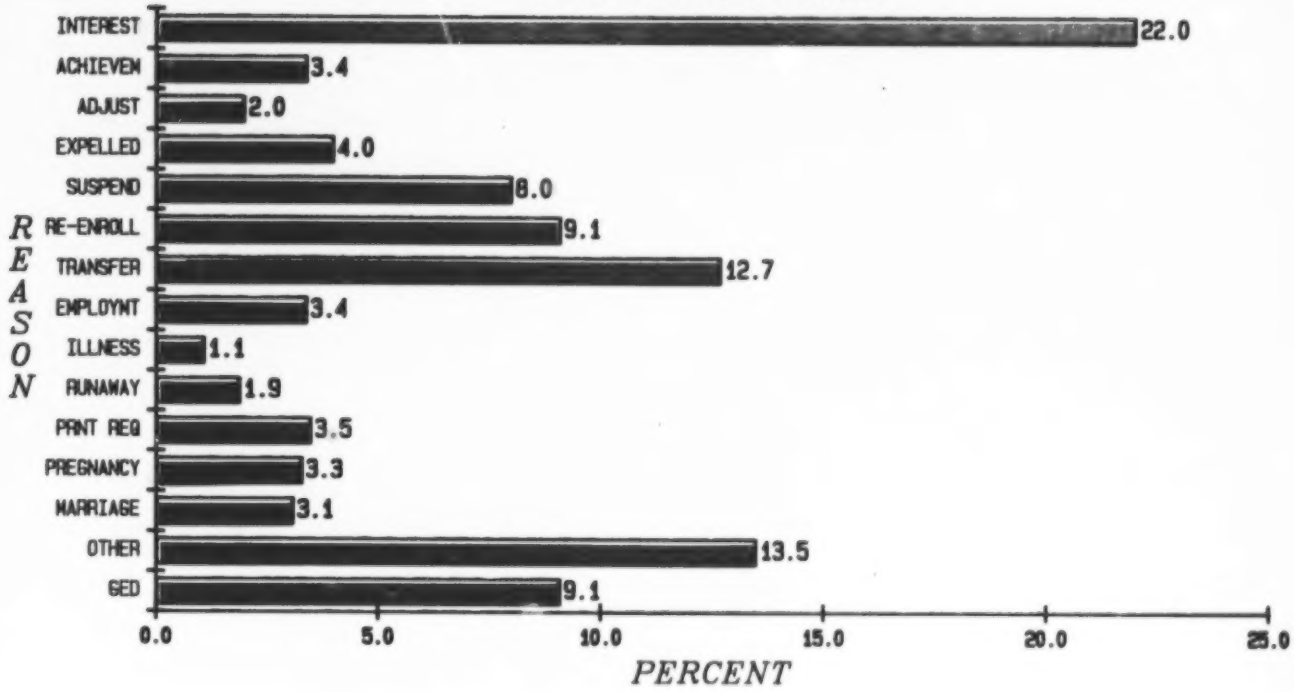
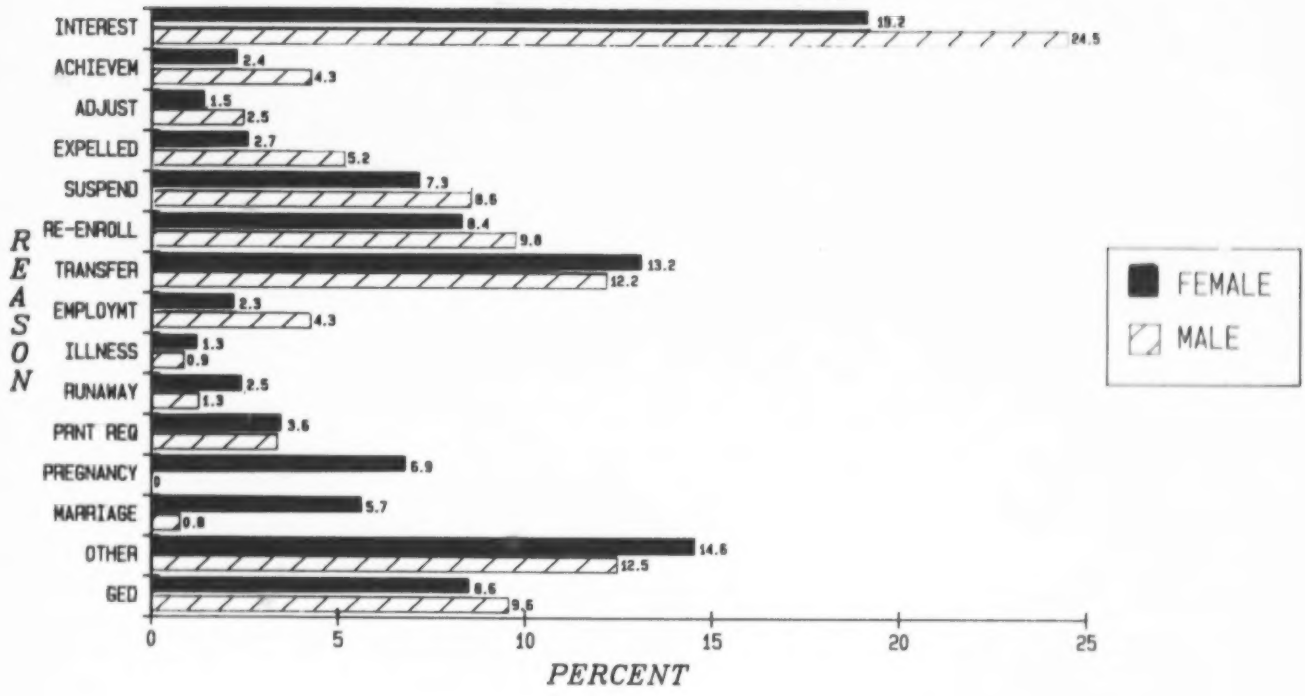


Table III and graphs on this and the following page provide information about why students drop out of school. At the time the data were collected, each student dropout was classified into one of fifteen categories using information provided by the student or, where necessary, by school personnel. A listing of these fifteen reason categories can be found in Appendix II. For the purpose of this report, these fifteen categories were labeled in Figures 6 and 7 as follows: Lack of Interest as INTEREST, Poor Achievement as ACHIEVEM, Inability to Adjust as ADJUST, Suspended (did not return) as SUSPEND, Did not Re-enroll, Transcript not Requested as RE-ENROLL, Indicated Transfer, but no Transcript Requested as TRANSFER, Employment as EMPLOYMT, Parent Request as PRNT REQ, and Non-graduate Completer (GED Candidate) as GED.

Of the 6,495 students who dropped out of school during the 1986-87 school year, the highest portion (22.0%) dropped out for reasons related to "lack of motivation or interest" and the second largest reason (13.5%) for "other".

Figure 7:
DROPOUT RATE BY SEX AND CAUSE



The percentage of students who dropped out of school during the 1986-87 school year, by sex and reason, are displayed in Figure 7.

A number of the school districts indicated that we should have added another category labeled "Lack of Child Care". It would seem that a number of young mothers had to drop out of school because they could not take care of a small child and attend school at the same time.

TABLE I: DROPOUT DATA FOR THE 1986-87 SCHOOL YEAR

Group	Number of Dropouts	180-Day Membership	Dropout Rate
Ethnicity			
Anglo	2,389	35,108	6.4
Hispanic	2,964	29,962	9.0
Native American	974	7,174	12.0
Black	140	1,660	7.8
Asian	28	659	4.1
Sex			
Male	3,416	38,261	8.2
Female	3,079	36,302	7.8
Grade			
9	1,585	21,036	7.0
10	1,981	19,614	9.2
11	1,761	17,785	9.0
12	1,168	16,128	6.8
TOTAL	6,495	74,563	8.0

TABLE II: 1986-87 SCHOOL YEAR DROPOUT RATES BY SEX AND GRADE

Sex	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Male	7.0	9.5	9.2	7.1
Female	7.0	8.8	8.9	6.4

TABLE III: 1986-87 SCHOOL YEAR DROPOUT RATES BY ETHNICITY AND REASON

	ANGLO	ASIAN	BLACK	HISPANIC	NATIVE AMERICAN
Lack of Interest	21.7	21.4	27.0	22.5	20.6
Poor Achievement	2.4		0.7	4.0	4.4
Inability to Adjust	1.4		2.1	2.1	3.5
Expelled	1.5		2.1	1.8	17.3
Suspended (Did Not Return)	7.5	7.1	8.5	8.7	7.0
Did Not Re-enroll	11.3	10.7	14.2	8.6	4.4
Indicated Transfer (Transcript Not Requested)	13.6	25.0	12.8	13.7	7.1
Employment	3.8	21.4	2.1	3.3	2.3
Illness	1.5		0.7	1.0	0.5
Runaway	2.9	3.6	3.5	1.2	1.0
Parent Request	3.9	3.6	2.8	3.0	4.2
Pregnancy	2.2		3.5	3.5	5.2
Marriage	3.2		0.7	3.6	1.6
Other	10.1	3.6	12.8	14.9	17.6
Non-Graduate Completer (G.E.D. Candidate)	13.1	3.6	6.4	8.1	3.3

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NEW MEXICO SCHOOL DISTRICT DROPOUT STUDY 1986-87
NUMBER OF DROPOUTS, MEMBERS AND DROPOUT RATES BY DISTRICT AND SCHOOL

DISTRICT	SCHOOL	DROPOUTS	MEMBERS	RATE
ALAMOGORDO		148	2043	6.75
	ALAMOGORDO HIGH	71	946	6.98
	MID HIGH	77	1066	6.74
	WEED HIGH	0	31	0.00
ALBUQUERQUE		1975	22635	8.03
	ALBUQUERQUE EVENIN	158	760	17.21
	ALBUQUERQUE HIGH	139	1442	8.79
	CIBOLA HIGH	139	1985	6.54
	DEL NORTE HIGH	232	1950	10.63
	ELDORADO HIGH	86	2141	3.86
	FREEDOM HIGH	63	223	22.03
	HIGHLAND HIGH	162	2246	6.73
	LA CUEVA HIGH	29	1452	1.96
	MANZANO HIGH	206	2560	7.45
	NEW FUTURES SCHOOL	168	190	46.93
	RIO GRANDE HIGH	143	1845	7.19
	SANDIA HIGH	148	1968	6.99
	SCHOOL ON WHEELS	74	224	24.83
	VALLEY HIGH	128	1540	7.67
	WEST MESA HIGH	100	2109	4.53
ANIMAS		9	162	5.26
	ANIMAS HIGH	9	162	5.26
ARTESIA		76	858	8.14
	ARTESIA HIGH	64	616	9.41
	PARK JR HIGH	12	242	4.72
AZTEC		64	755	7.81
	AZTEC HIGH	55	530	9.40
	CV KOOGLER JR HIGH	9	225	3.85
BELEN		59	1049	5.32
	BELEN HIGH	59	1049	5.32
BERNALILLO		93	839	9.98
	BERNALILLO HIGH	93	839	9.98
BLOOMFIELD		108	938	10.33
	BLOOMFIELD HIGH	108	939	10.33
CAPITAN		5	132	3.65
	CAPITAN HIGH	5	132	3.65
CARLSBAD		125	1701	6.85
	CARLSBAD HIGH	101	1212	7.69
	CARLSBAD J H S	24	489	4.68
CARRIZOZO		9	81	10.00
	CARRIZOZO HIGH	9	81	10.00
CENTRAL		234	1566	13.00
	CENTRAL HIGH	131	654	16.69
	NEWCOMB HIGH	38	234	13.97
	SHIPROCK HIGH	65	678	8.75
CHAMA		10	188	5.05
	ESCALANTE HIGH	10	188	5.05
CIMARRON		2	102	1.92
	CIMARRON HIGH	2	102	1.92
CLAYTON		18	253	6.64
	CLAYTON HIGH	18	253	6.64

APPENDIX 1

NEW MEXICO SCHOOL DISTRICT DROPOUT STUDY 1986-87
NUMBER OF DROPOUTS, MEMBERS AND DROPOUT RATES
BY DISTRICT AND SCHOOL

DISTRICT	SCHOOL	DROPOUTS	MEMBERS	RATE
CLOUDCROFT		7	99	6.60
	CLOUDCROFT HIGH	7	99	6.60
CLOVIS		102	2002	4.85
	CLOVIS HIGH	98	1417	6.47
	MARSHALL JR HIGH	2	188	1.05
	W D GATTIS JR HIGH	2	188	1.05
	YUCCA JR HIGH	0	209	0.00
COBRE		56	537	9.44
	COBRE HIGH	56	537	9.44
CORONA		0	32	0.00
	CORONA HIGH	0	32	0.00
CUBA		27	318	7.83
	CUBA HIGH	27	318	7.83
DEMING		192	878	17.94
	DEMING HIGH	192	878	17.94
DES MOINES		0	50	0.00
	DES MOINES HIGH	0	50	0.00
DEXTER		7	184	3.66
	DEXTER HIGH	7	184	3.66
DORA		1	48	2.04
	DORA HIGH	1	48	2.04
DULCE		6	161	3.59
	DULCE HIGH	6	161	3.59
ELIDA		1	42	2.33
	ELIDA HIGH	1	42	2.33
ESPANOLA		56	1366	3.94
	ALTERNATIVE HIGH	18	68	20.93
	ESPANOLA VALLEY HI	38	1298	2.84
ESTANCIA		6	144	4.00
	ESTANCIA HIGH	6	144	4.00
EUNICE		12	161	6.94
	EUNICE HIGH	12	161	6.94
FARMINGTON		116	2042	5.38
	FARMINGTON HIGH	101	1513	6.26
	HEIGHTS JR HIGH	3	181	1.63
	HERMOSA JR HIGH	3	207	1.43
	TIBBETTS JR HIGH	9	141	6.00
FLOYD		1	62	1.59
	FLOYD HIGH	1	62	1.59
FT SUMNER		5	114	4.20
	FORT SUMNER HIGH	5	114	4.20
GADSDEN		283	1953	12.66
	GADSDEN HIGH	264	1350	16.36
	GADSDEN JR HIGH	12	323	3.58
	SANTA TERESA JR HS	7	280	2.44
GALLUP		431	3101	12.20
	CROWNPOINT HIGH	58	335	14.76
	GALLUP HIGH	206	1707	10.77
	NAVAJO PINE HIGH	33	201	14.10
	RAMAH HIGH SCHOOL	5	79	5.95
	THOREAU HIGH	72	342	17.39

NEW MEXICO SCHOOL DISTRICT DROPOUT STUDY 1986-87
NUMBER OF DROPOUTS, MEMBERS AND DROPOUT RATES
BY DISTRICT AND SCHOOL

DISTRICT	SCHOOL	DROPOUTS	MEMBERS	RATE
	TOHATCHI HIGH	57	437	11.54
GRADY		0	46	0.00
	GRADY HIGH	0	46	0.00
GRANTS		328	1259	20.67
	GRANTS HIGH	287	978	22.69
	LAGUNA ACOMA HIGH	41	281	12.73
HAGERMAN		17	97	14.91
	HAGERMAN HIGH	17	97	14.91
HATCH		44	243	15.33
	HATCH VALLEY HIGH	44	243	15.33
HOBBS		106	1986	5.07
	HEIZER JR HIGH	5	172	2.82
	HIGHLAND JR HIGH	0	194	0.00
	HOBBS ALTERNATIVE	25	27	48.08
	HOBBS HIGH	76	1370	5.26
	HOUSTON JR HIGH	0	223	0.00
HONDO		2	36	5.26
	HONDO HIGH	2	36	5.26
HOUSE		0	32	0.00
	HOUSE HIGH	0	32	0.00
JAL		11	161	6.40
	JAL HIGH	11	161	6.40
JEMEZ MOUNTAIN		2	101	1.94
	CORONADO HIGH	2	101	1.94
JEMEZ SPRINGS		16	204	7.27
	JEMEZ VALLEY HIGH	16	204	7.27
LAKE ARTHUR		2	46	4.17
	LAKE ARTHUR HIGH	2	46	4.17
LAS CRUCES		393	4779	7.60
	LAS CRUCES HIGH	104	1749	5.61
	LYNN JR HIGH	8	304	2.56
	MAYFIELD HIGH	176	1735	9.21
	MAYFIELD NIGHT HIG	27	8	77.14
	PICACHO JR HIGH	11	323	3.24
	SAN ANDRES HIGH	44	97	31.21
	SIERRA JUNIOR HIGH	16	299	5.08
	WHITE SANDS JR HIG	0	31	0.00
	ZIA JR HIGH	7	228	2.98
LAS VEGAS CITY		21	721	2.83
	ROBERTSON HIGH	21	721	2.83
LOGAN		2	76	2.56
	LOGAN HIGH	2	76	2.56
LORDSBURG		13	234	5.26
	LORDSBURG HIGH	13	234	5.26
LOS ALAMOS		15	1334	1.11
	LOS ALAMOS HIGH	15	1334	1.11
LOS LUNAS		228	1046	17.90
	LOS LUNAS HIGH	228	1046	17.90
LOVING		1	32	3.03
	LOVING JR HIGH	1	32	3.03
LOVINGTON		34	758	4.29

NEW MEXICO SCHOOL DISTRICT DROPOUT STUDY 1986-87
NUMBER OF DROPOUTS, MEMBERS AND DROPOUT RATES
BY DISTRICT AND SCHOOL

DISTRICT	SCHOOL	DROPOUTS	MEMBERS	RATE
	LOVINGTON HIGH	30	548	5.19
	LOVINGTON JR HIGH	4	210	1.87
MAGDALENA		5	110	4.35
	MAGDALENA HIGH	5	110	4.35
MAXWELL		6	28	17.65
	MAXWELL HIGH	6	28	17.65
MELROSE		2	96	2.04
	MELROSE HIGH	2	96	2.04
MESA VISTA		5	114	4.20
	MESA VISTA HIGH	5	114	4.20
MORA		11	226	4.64
	MORA HIGH	11	226	4.64
MORIARTY		44	528	7.69
	MORIARTY HIGH	44	528	7.69
MOSQUERO		0	14	0.00
	MOSQUERO HIGH	0	14	0.00
MOUNTAINAIR		2	88	2.22
	MOUNTAINAIR HIGH	2	88	2.22
PECOS		5	202	2.42
	PECOS HIGH	5	202	2.42
PENASCO		10	236	4.07
	PENASCO HIGH	10	236	4.07
POJOAQUE		32	499	6.03
	POJOAQUE HIGH	32	499	6.03
PORTALES		54	666	7.50
	PORTALES HIGH	54	666	7.50
QUEMADO		1	67	1.47
	QUEMADO HIGH	1	67	1.47
QUESTA		6	186	3.13
	QUESTA HIGH	6	186	3.13
RATON		31	503	5.81
	RATON HIGH	31	503	5.81
RESERVE		3	87	3.33
	RESERVE HIGH	3	87	3.33
ROSWELL		184	2448	6.99
	GODDARD HIGH	59	1096	5.11
	NUEVO COMIENZO HIG	53	137	27.89
	ROSWELL HIGH	72	1215	5.59
ROY		0	27	0.00
	ROY HIGH	0	27	0.00
RUIDOSO		47	479	8.94
	RUIDOSO HIGH	47	479	8.94
SAN JON		2	32	5.88
	SAN JON HIGH	2	32	5.88
SANTA FE		245	2406	9.24
	SANTA FE HIGH	131	1890	6.48
	SANTA FE TECH	93	440	17.45
	SIERRA VISTA HIGH	21	76	21.65
SANTA ROSA		11	230	4.56
	SANTA ROSA HIGH	11	230	4.56
SILVER CITY		58	1131	4.88

NEW MEXICO SCHOOL DISTRICT DROPOUT STUDY 1986-87
NUMBER OF DROPOUTS, MEMBERS AND DROPOUT RATES
BY DISTRICT AND SCHOOL

DISTRICT	SCHOOL	DROPOUTS	MEMBERS	RATE
	CLIFF HIGH	2	68	2.86
	LA PLATA JR HIGH	10	267	3.61
	SILVER HIGH	46	796	5.46
SOCORRO		55	525	9.48
	SOCORRO HIGH	55	525	9.48
SPRINGER		2	139	1.42
	SPRINGER HIGH	2	139	1.42
TAOS		32	1015	3.06
	TAOS HIGH	29	747	3.74
	TAOS JR HIGH	3	268	1.11
TATUM		4	140	2.78
	TATUM HIGH	4	140	2.78
TEXICO		16	131	10.88
	TEXICO HIGH	16	131	10.88
TRUTH OR CONSEQ		35	343	9.26
	HOT SPRINGS HIGH	35	343	9.26
TUCUMCARI		24	502	4.56
	TUCUMCARI HIGH	24	502	4.56
TULAROSA		37	306	10.79
	TULAROSA HIGH	37	306	10.79
VAUGHN		0	65	0.00
	VAUGHN HIGH	0	65	0.00
WAGON MOUND		1	26	3.70
	WAGON MOUND HIGH	1	26	3.70
WEST LAS VEGAS		16	670	2.33
	VALLEY JR HIGH	0	24	0.00
	W LAS VEGAS HIGH	16	646	2.42
ZUNI		30	511	5.55
	TWIN BUTTES HIGH	15	59	20.27
	ZUNI HIGH	15	452	3.21
STATE		6495	74563	8.01

APPENDIX II

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DROPOUT STUDY

THIS SURVEY IS DUE JUNE 15, 1987

This study is for the period of May 31, 1986 through the end of school 1987.

For the purpose of this study, the following definitions will be used:
A dropout is any student who leaves or is disenrolled from a school without attaining a diploma for any reason except transferring to another educational institution, attendance in a vocational training program, or death.

ANG=Anglo	Not of Hispanic origin. All persons having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East.
SP=Hispanic	All persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or Origin, regardless of race.
NA=Native American	All persons having origins in any of the original peoples of North America, and who maintain cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.
BLK=Black	Not of Hispanic origin. All persons having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.
ASI=Asian or Pacific Islander	All persons having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian Subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands. The area includes, for example, China, Japan, Korea, India, the Philippine Islands, and Samoa.

1. Enter the School Name, District Name, and Person Responding in the spaces provided at the top of the survey.

2. The reasons for dropping out should be self-explanatory except for the following:

   The category Did Not Re-Enroll means that your school did not receive a transcript request from another school.

   The category Indicated Transfer means that the student indicated that he or she was transferring to another school, but a transcript was never requested from another school.

   The category Other is to be used if the students cannot be contacted for their own explanation. Please infer the reason as best you can or enter under "Other". If the reason is known but cannot be placed in any of the categories that are listed, please enter under "Other".

The category Non-Graduate Completer (GED Candidate) is to be used if the student indicated he or she was quitting school to take the GED and it can be verified through a sign off on a GED Underage Permission Form.

The following reasons should not be listed as dropout:

a. Transfer to a federal or state-sponsored training program such as Job Corps or HEP.

b. Graduation.

c. Death.

d. Transfer to another school which grants a high school degree. This would include the New Mexico Boy's School because they do have a high school degree program, but would not include a commercial school.

3. Total Dropouts: Enter the sum of the column of dropouts.

4. 180-Day Membership: Enter the school's 180-Day Membership (as reported to The Office of Education).

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ENTER EACH DROPOUT IN ONLY ONE CATEGORY.
ENTER 180-DAY MEMBERSHIP FOR EACH COLUMN ON BOTTOM LINE.

SCHOOL NAME: _____
DISTRICT: _____
PERSON REPORTING: _____

REASONS FOR DROPPING OUT	9TH GRADE										10TH GRADE									
	MALE					FEMALE					MALE					FEMALE				
	ANG	SP	NA	BLK	ASI	ANG	SP	NA	BLK	ASI	ANG	SP	NA	BLK	ASI	ANG	SP	NA	BLK	ASI
Lack of Interest																				
Poor Achievement																				
Inability to Adjust																				
Expelled																				
Suspended (did not return)																				
Did Not Re-enroll, Transcript Not Requested																				
Indicated Transfer, but no Transcript Requested																				
Employment																				
Illness																				
Runaway																				
Parent Request																				
Pregnancy																				
Marriage																				
Other																				
Non-Graduate Completer (GED Candidate)																				
TOTAL DROPOUTS																				
180-DAY MEMBERSHIP																				

SDE-093-87